

NEW DOME ON THE CAPITOL.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING

*A report from Captain Meigs, showing the amount of money required to meet the contracts entered into in connection with the new dome.*

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JUNE 21, 1856.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, May 17, 1856.*

SIR: I herewith enclose a report from Captain M. C. Meigs, containing the statement requested in your letter of the 8th instant, of "the amount required to meet the contracts already entered into in connection with the new dome on the Capitol."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
JEFF'N DAVIS,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. L. D. CAMPBELL,  
*Chairman Committee of Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives.*

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U. S. CAPITOL EXTENSION, POST OFFICE EXTENSION, AND  
WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT OFFICE,  
*Washington, May 16, 1856.*

MY DEAR SIR: I have made engagements for the thirty-six cast-iron columns, including shafts, bases, and capitals, for the peristyle of the dome.

They weigh about 11,745 pounds each, or 422,823 pounds in all.

At the price at which they are delivered on the cars at Washington— $3\frac{4}{10}$ cents per pound—these will cost...	\$14,375 98
We have already received and paid for 297,719 pounds, at $3\frac{4}{10}$ cents.....	10,122 42 $\frac{1}{2}$
Balance (to be delivered) 125,104 pounds, at $3\frac{4}{10}$ cents...	4,253 56 $\frac{1}{2}$

No other engagement has been made for the supply of the material for the dome. There are a number of persons employed in the shops, and the current expenses for their wages are about \$900 per month.

There is now available of the appropriation for the dome the sum of \$66,383.

I return the letter of the Hon. L. D. Campbell, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, of the 8th instant, referred to me for report.

The delay in making this report has been caused by waiting for the receipt of a portion of the ornamental castings for the capitals of the columns, which, daily expected, arrived only yesterday. I wished, by actual trial, to determine their exact weight before sending in this estimate.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain Engineers, in charge new dome, Extension  
United States Capitol, &c., &c.*

Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS,  
*Secretary of War.*